

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2001

The Honorable C.W. Young, Chairman
The Honorable David R. Obey, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Obey:

As members of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, we encourage you to consider the 4 million Americans afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease as you move forward with FY 2002 appropriations. Since its inception in June 1999, the Task Force has enlisted 150 enthusiastic Members and continues to grow. We respectfully urge your consideration of the following:

- To increase funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to \$1 billion beginning with an increase of \$200 million in FY 2002, to find ways to prevent, treat and cure the disease.
- To provide \$2.25 million to fully fund the Alzheimer's Clinical Research and Training Program – a worthwhile program authorized last year to improve diagnosis, treatment and prevention.
- To expand the Alzheimer's Matching Grant Program to \$25 million, enabling all 50 states to reach Alzheimer's families in underserved areas, particularly minority and rural communities.
- To appropriate \$125 million for a National Family Caregiver Support Program to help states and communities develop or expand respite, adult day care, and other supportive services for caregivers for persons of all ages and disabilities.
- To continue \$1 million in funding for Safe Return, a Department of Justice program to help law enforcement and public safety personnel locate and protect Alzheimer's patients who wander from home.

As the average human life span increases, Alzheimer's will become the epidemic of the 21st Century – by 2050 it is estimated that 14 million Americans will be afflicted. Today, one in ten seniors over age 65 has a form of Alzheimer's, and a staggering 50 percent of seniors aged 85 will fall victim to the disease.

Thanks to your past support for fighting this growing health crisis, the federal government will spend \$520 million on Alzheimer's research in FY 2001. However, this is a modest investment when compared with the annual \$100 billion cost of the disease.

The Honorable C.W. Young, Chairman
The Honorable David Obey, Ranking Member
April 25, 2001
Page 2

If scientists can find a way to delay the onset of Alzheimer's for even five years, our nation will save at least \$50 billion in annual health and long-term care costs.

Currently, only 25 percent of all well-scoring Alzheimer's Disease applications sent to the National Institutes of Health receive funding from the National Institute on Aging (NIA). Thus, it is evident that the overwhelming percentage of worthy Alzheimer's applications do not receive support from the NIA. Many valid scientific opportunities that could enhance our knowledge of Alzheimer's are being lost. This needs to change.

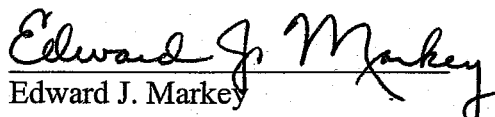
As you know, Alzheimer's Disease is a progressive, degenerative dementia disorder that attacks the brain, captures the mind, and erodes the mental and physical abilities of its victim before ultimately stealing life. Impaired memory and judgement leave patients completely dependent on others for their most basic needs. Seven in ten afflicted live at home and almost 75% of home care is provided by family and friends. On average, Medicare spends 70% more on patients suffering with dementia due to a greater incidence of health problems unrelated to their cognitive impairment. Also at risk for increased health problems are the caregivers (one-third of whom are Medicare beneficiaries) who experience stress-related health problems at much higher rates than their peers unencumbered by the needs of a long-term care patient.


Before succumbing to Alzheimer's, patients may suffer for as long as three to twenty years. With the average life-time cost of a case of Alzheimer's estimated at \$174,000, our health care and long-term care system will be overwhelmed unless effective treatment strategies are identified and implemented.

We formed the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease in an effort to control and combat this impending epidemic. We ask for your assistance in this battle against Alzheimer's. We urge you to increase support for on-going research efforts at NIH, to encourage full-funding for the Alzheimer's Clinical Research and Training Awards program, and finally to fund the National Family Caregiver Support Program, the Alzheimer's Matching Grant Program, the Alzheimer's Matching Grant Program and the Safe Return Program.

We thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
Alzheimer's Task Force Co-Chair


Christopher H. Smith
Alzheimer's Task Force Co-Chair

Tammy Baldwin

Pat

Mark

Tom Barrett

Michael E. Grimm

Julie Carson

Earl J. Fillicord

Willie Ault

Jim M^{rs} O'Connell

Sam H. Melnyk

Rick Larson

Neil Abernethy

Bill Pascrell Jr.

Stephanie Phillips Fox

Grace F. Napolitano

Mush Holt

Lynn S. Rivers

Tom Allen

Don Kind

Charlie Norwood

Jim Gibbons

Jim Ramstad

Jim Langerin

Adam Smith

Mike Doyle

Jane Camp

Pat Affin

Michael McHally

Daniel E. Bonio

George Miller

Jonnie Morella

Paul E. Kanjowski

Jack Quinn

Louise M. Slaughter

D. C. Fournier

Lucille Roybal-Allard

MP
Carlene V. Sledge

Joe P. M.

Cheryl Shaw

Daniel Price

Cale E. Childer

Lane Evans

Henry a Waxman

Jim Moran

Marty Mehan

Ben Felman

Chris V. Haberman

Wm M. Clayton

D. J. Lyons

Carolyn B. Maloney

T. Holder

Bob Smith

Joe Mackley

Robert Wexler

Paul R. Hogenich

Tom Davis

Chip Ruby

Carroll D. Duff

Pat F.

Jon Schenk

J. Saxton

Robert Muench

Weather

Barbara Lee

Anna Esch

Pat A. Brady

Joe Andri

Theresa A. Hart

Joe McGowan

Frank D. Lucas

Rob Simmons

Adam H. Patten

Tom Jefferson

Ron Show

Lynn Woolsey

Pete Sessions

Alfred Hastings

Richard Shaw

Mary J. Ackerman

Gene Meyer

Elton Sams

Robert R. Wilson

Sherry F. Bickel

Sherry F. Bickel

Tom Lantos

Pat T. Dwyer

Jim Barcia

Ken Raul

1. Tammy Baldwin
2. Jo Ann Davis
3. Mark Green
4. Thomas M Barrett
5. Michael E. Capuano
6. Julia Carson
7. Earl F. Hilliard
8. William D. Delahunt
9. Jim McDermott
10. James H. Maloney
11. Rick Larsen
12. Neil Abercrombie
13. Dave Camp

27. Peter A. DeFazio
28. Michael R. McNulty
29. David E. Bonior
30. George Miller
31. Constance A. Morella
32. Paul E. Kanjorski
33. Jack Quinn
34. Louise McIntosh Slaughter
35. Steven C. LaTourette
36. Lucille Roybal-Allard
37. Maurice D. Hinchey
38. John P. Murtha
39. Clay E. Shaw, Jr.

53. John Joseph Moakley
54. Robert Wexler
55. Rod R. Blagojevich
56. Tom Davis
57. Charles W. "Chip" Pickering
58. Adam B. Schiff
59. Peter T. King
60. Janice D. Schakowsky
61. Jim Saxton
62. Johnny Isakson
63. Robert Menendez
64. Eleanor Holmes Norton
65. Barbara Lee

79. Richard E. Neal
80. Gary L. Ackerman
81. Gene Green
82. Elton Gallegly
83. Albert Russell Wynn
84. Shelley Berkley

14. Stephanie Tubbs Jones
15. Grace F. Napolitano
16. Rush D. Holt
17. Lynn N. Rivers
18. Thomas H. Allen
19. Bill Pascrell, Jr.
20. Ron Kind
21. Charlie Norwood
22. Jim Gibbons
23. Jim Ramstad
24. James R. Langevin
25. Adam Smith
26. Michael F. Doyle

40. David E. Price
41. Dale E. Kildee
42. Lane Evans
43. Henry A. Waxman
44. James P. Moran
45. Martin T. Meehan
46. Benjamin A. Gilman
47. Luis V. Gutierrez
48. Eva M. Clayton
49. J. D. Hayworth
50. Carolyn B. Maloney
51. Tim Holden
52. Bernard Sanders

66. Anna G. Eshoo
67. Robert A. Brady
68. Jay Inslee
69. Melissa A. Hart
70. James P. McGovern
71. Frank D. Lucas
72. Rob Simmons
73. Adam H. Putnam
74. William J. Jefferson
75. Ronnie Shows
76. Lynn C. Woolsey
77. Pete Sessions
78. Alcee L. Hastings

85. Sherwood L. Boehlert
86. Tom Lantos
87. Patsy T. Mink
88. James A. Barcia
89. Nick J. Rahall, II